

REMARKS

In response to the rejection of the pending claims as being anticipated by the cited Egawa patent, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1 and 8 so that they are presented in a manner which is believed to be patentably distinct over the Egawa reference.

In particular, each of independent Claims 1 and 8 requires that a photoelectric conversion apparatus of the present invention is arranged so that a first transfer unit (e.g., CCD1 in Fig. 5) continuously transfers first signals from a sensor array in a light projection ON state to a ring-shaped second transfer unit (e.g., CCD2 in Fig. 5), and alternately continuously transfers second signals from the sensor array in a light projection OFF state to the ring-shaped second transfer unit, at different timings respectively. Also, a transfer frequency of the ring-shaped second transfer unit is higher than that of the first transfer unit.

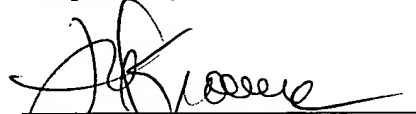
Applicant respectfully submits that the above-characterized features of the present invention are not disclosed in the cited Egawa reference. In the Office Action, reference is made to elements 94 and 96 shown in Fig. 6 of the Egawa patent in order to argue that those elements disclose the claimed first transfer unit and ring-shaped second transfer unit. However, the element 94 in the Egawa patent does not continuously transfer signals to the element 96 which continuously transfers the signals to a ring CCD (see lines 11-12 in page 2 of the Office Action). Thus, Egawa's element 94 is distinguishable from the first transfer unit recited in the amended independent Claims 1 and 8. In addition, in the Egawa reference, the CCD96 and ring CCD connected thereto are driven by the same

transfer clocks CK1 and CK2, and thus, even if the claimed first transfer unit could be read on the element 96 of the reference of Egawa, this reference fails to disclose the claimed feature of the transfer frequency, recited in each of the amended independent Claims 1 and 8.

For these various reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1 and 8 are allowable, together with all of the dependent Claims, wherefore the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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